

One only needs to look back on the timeline of events in Iraq to realize how much we have given that country. From the deposing of Saddam Hussein and his ruthless heirs, to the drafting of a constitution and free elections, the United States has fulfilled its role in liberating Iraq. However, the sacrifices our country has made must be met by an even stronger commitment by Iraq's leaders to face the challenges of a fledgling democracy and ensure the safety and freedom of its own people.

Our troops have served with tremendous bravery during this nearly 4 year endeavor. The resolution we are discussing today contains a pledge that Congress will "continue to support and protect" our courageous men and women who are serving or who have served in Iraq. This is a promise we must keep and I will work with like-minded colleagues to ensure that the members of the United States Armed Forces continue to have the resources they need while they are in harms way and after they return home.

However, I am in disagreement with the President on sending 21,500 more troops to Iraq because the time has passed for the leaders and citizens of Iraq to ascend and defend their country. The people of this country sent a message to the Congress a few months ago and my constituents have made it increasingly clear to me that they do not support the escalation of U.S. troop involvement amidst the seemingly endless sectarian strife inside Iraq.

Therefore, I rise in support of this resolution.

□ 1500

The SPEAKER. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 157, the concurrent resolution is considered read and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the concurrent resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 246, nays 182, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 99]

YEAS—246

Abercrombie	Capuano	Davis, Tom
Ackerman	Cardoza	DeFazio
Allen	Carnahan	DeGette
Altmire	Carney	Delahunt
Andrews	Carson	DeLauro
Arcuri	Castle	Dicks
Baca	Castor	Dingell
Baldwin	Chandler	Doggett
Barrow	Clarke	Donnelly
Bean	Clay	Doyle
Becerra	Cleaver	Duncan
Berkley	Clyburn	Edwards
Berman	Coble	Ellison
Berry	Cohen	Ellsworth
Bishop (GA)	Conyers	Emanuel
Bishop (NY)	Cooper	Engel
Blumenauer	Costa	English (PA)
Boren	Costello	Eshoo
Boswell	Courtney	Etheridge
Boucher	Cramer	Farr
Boyd (FL)	Crowley	Fattah
Boyd (KS)	Cuellar	Filner
Brady (PA)	Cummings	Frank (MA)
Braley (IA)	Davis (AL)	Giffords
Brown, Corrine	Davis (CA)	Gilchrest
Butterfield	Davis (IL)	Gillibrand
Capps	Davis, Lincoln	Gonzalez

Gordon	Lynch
Green, Al	Mahoney (FL)
Green, Gene	Maloney (NY)
Grijalva	Markey
Gutierrez	Matheson
Hall (NY)	Matsui
Hare	McCarthy (NY)
Harman	McCollum (MN)
Hastings (FL)	McDermott
Herseth	McGovern
Higgins	McIntyre
Hill	McNerney
Hinchey	McNulty
Hinojosa	Meehan
Hirono	Meek (FL)
Hodes	Meeks (NY)
Holden	Melancon
Holt	Michaud
Honda	Millender-McDonald
Hooley	Miller (NC)
Hoyer	Miller, George
Inglis (SC)	Mitchell
Inslee	Mollohan
Israel	Moore (KS)
Jackson (IL)	Moore (WI)
Jackson-Lee (TX)	Moran (VA)
Jefferson	Murphy (CT)
Johnson (GA)	Murphy, Patrick
Johnson (IL)	Murtha
Johnson, E. B.	Napolitano
Jones (NC)	Neal (MA)
Jones (OH)	Oberstar
Kagen	Obey
Kanjorski	Olver
Kaptur	Ortiz
Keller	Pallone
Kennedy	Pascarella
Kildee	Pastor
Kilpatrick	Velázquez
Kind	Paul
Kirk	Payne
Klein (FL)	Pelosi
Kucinich	Perlmutter
Lampson	Peterson (MN)
Langevin	Petri
Lantos	Pomeroy
Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)
Larson (CT)	Rahall
LaTourette	Ramstad
Lee	Rangel
Levin	Reyes
Lewis (GA)	Rodriguez
Lipinski	Ross
Loebach	Rothman
Lofgren, Zoe	Roybal-Allard
Lowey	Ruppersberger
	Rush

NAYS—182

Aderholt	Davis (KY)	Hulshof
Akin	Davis, David	Hunter
Alexander	Deal (GA)	Issa
Bachmann	Dent	Jindal
Bachus	Diaz-Balart, L.	Johnson, Sam
Baker	Diaz-Balart, M.	Jordan
Barrett (SC)	Doolittle	King (IA)
Bartlett (MD)	Drake	King (NY)
Barton (TX)	Dreier	Kingston
Biggert	Ehlers	Kline (MN)
Blibray	Emerson	Knollenberg
Bilirakis	Everett	Kuhl (NY)
Bishop (UT)	Fallin	LaHood
Blackburn	Feeney	Lamborn
Blunt	Ferguson	Latham
Boehner	Flake	Lewis (CA)
Bonner	Forbes	Lewis (KY)
Bono	Fortenberry	Linder
Boozman	Fossella	Lucas
Brady (TX)	Fox	Lungren, Daniel
Brown (SC)	Franks (AZ)	E.
Brown-Waite,	Frelinghuysen	Mack
Ginny	Gallagher	Manzullo
Buchanan	Garrett (NJ)	Marchant
Burgess	Gerlach	Marshall
Burton (IN)	Gillmor	McCarthy (CA)
Buyer	Gingrey	McCaul (TX)
Calvert	Gohmert	McCotter
Camp (MI)	Goode	McCrery
Campbell (CA)	Goodlatte	McHenry
Cannon	Granger	McHugh
Cantor	Graves	McKeon
Capito	Hall (TX)	McMorris
Carter	Hastings (WA)	Rodgers
Chabot	Hayes	Mica
Cole (OK)	Heller	Miller (FL)
Conaway	Hensarling	Miller (MI)
Crenshaw	Herger	Miller, Gary
Cubin	Hobson	Moran (KS)
Culberson	Hoekstra	Murphy, Tim

Musgrave	Rogers (KY)	Sullivan
Myrick	Rogers (MI)	Tancred
Neugebauer	Rohrabacher	Taylor
Nunes	Ros-Lehtinen	Terry
Pearce	Roskam	Thornberry
Pence	Royce	Tiahrt
Peterson (PA)	Ryan (WI)	Tiberi
Pickering	Sali	Turner
Pitts	Saxton	Walberg
Platts	Schmidt	Walden (OR)
Poe	Sensenbrenner	Wamp
Porter	Sessions	Weldon (FL)
Price (GA)	Shade	Weller
Pryce (OH)	Shays	Westmoreland
Putnam	Shimkus	Whitfield
Radanovich	Shuster	Wicker
Regula	Simpson	Wilson (NM)
Rehberg	Smith (NE)	Wilson (SC)
Reichert	Smith (NJ)	Wolf
Renzi	Smith (TX)	Young (AK)
Reynolds	Souder	Young (FL)
Rogers (AL)	Stearns	

NOT VOTING—6

Baird	Davis, Jo Ann	LoBiondo
Boustany	Hastert	Nadler

□ 1522

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 99, H. Con. Res. 63, I was unable to vote due to medical reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 188. An act to revise the short title of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

S. 487. An act to amend the National Organ Transplant Act to clarify that kidney paired donations shall not be considered to involve the transfer of a human organ for valuable consideration.

S. Con. Res. 12. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a National Medal of Honor Day to mark the significance and importance of the Medal of Honor and to celebrate and honor the recipients of the Medal of Honor on the anniversary of the first award of that medal in 1863.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 67) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 67

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, February 16, 2007, or Saturday, February 17, 2007, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2007, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs

first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Saturday, February 17, 2007, through Saturday, February 24, 2007, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, February 26, 2007, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

Sec. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2007, TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 556, NATIONAL SECURITY FOREIGN INVESTMENT REFORM AND STRENGTHENED TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Financial Services have until midnight on Friday, February 23, 2007 to file a report on H.R. 556.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIERNEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 161 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 161

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time on the legislative day of Friday, February 16, 2007, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules relating to the bill (H.R. 976) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. ARCURI) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate purposes only.

I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. ARCURI asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARCURI. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 161 is a rule to provide for consideration of H.R. 976, the Small Business Tax Relief Act, under suspension of rules at any time on the legislative day of Friday, February 16, 2007.

This rule is necessary because under clause 1(a) of rule XV, the Speaker may entertain motions to suspend the rules only on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of each week. In order for suspensions to be considered on other days, the Rules Committee must provide for consideration of these motions.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by saying how honored I am as a member of the distinguished Rules Committee to manage the rule for consideration of such an important piece of legislation that will provide \$1.3 billion of tax relief for our Nation's small business.

This legislation, the Small Business Tax Relief Act, is strongly supported by a host of business organizations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the NFIB, the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Restaurant Association.

Small businesses are the backbone of this Nation's economy. Every day we as Americans utilize the services of small business owners, whether it is dropping off our dry cleaning, grabbing a bite to eat at a local diner or pizzeria, or waiting in line to pick up a prescription at a local pharmacy. We depend on our small businesses.

□ 1530

It is a constant struggle for most small businesses just to keep the lights on. Utility costs continue to skyrocket, and larger companies continue to expand services, pushing out the mom-and-pop stores in cities and towns across the country. My constituents in Upstate New York have experienced this loss of economic activity firsthand, but that trend has continued.

The Small Business Tax Relief Act would help small businesses grow and hire new workers by extending and expanding tax provisions that encourage investment in new equipment and promote the hiring of disadvantaged workers, and it does so in a fiscally responsible way that meets the pay-as-you-go requirements. Small business owners have to balance the books and stay on budget each month. It is only fitting that we do as well.

Specifically, the bill would help small businesses invest in new equipment by extending and expanding expensing options for 1 year and increase both the amount small businesses can deduct from their taxes and the number of small businesses that can take these deductions.

The bill would extend the work opportunity tax credit, which provides incentives to employers to hire individuals that frequently experience barriers to work for 1 year, and expand it to cover disabled veterans. In other

words, it helps those who need jobs by giving employers tax credits for creating jobs.

It would enhance the current tip credit for small businesses by maintaining the current tip credit that small businesses take for the Social Security taxes they pay on their employees' tips, instead of allowing it to drop with the long-overdue increase in the minimum wage this legislation will help achieve.

The bill also contains a provision that would simplify tax-filing requirements for businesses owned jointly by a husband and wife, providing much-needed relief for the many small firms throughout this country.

Right now, there is a glitch in the Social Security tax law which only allows one spouse, most often the husband, to get credit for paying into Social Security. This leaves women who work as equal partners in an unfair situation. The Small Business Tax Relief Act fixes this glaring inequality by ensuring that both partners, equal members of the team, receive their justly deserved entitlement benefits.

Moreover, this legislation does not only help small businesses. It is a win-win, because passage of the Small Business Tax Relief Act is also a critical step in finalizing an increase in the Federal minimum wage for 13 million hardworking Americans.

I made a promise to my constituents that I would go to Washington to fight for a long-overdue increase in the Federal minimum wage. Passage of this measure takes us one step closer to fulfilling that promise.

I want to be clear. I support a stand-alone increase in the minimum wage, like the legislation we passed a few weeks ago with overwhelming bipartisan support. However, 10 years is too long for any hardworking Americans to wait for a wage increase. Let's not force them to wait any longer. The time to act is now.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend from New York for the time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 161 provides that it will be in order at any time on the legislative day of today to consider H.R. 976, the Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2007, under a suspension of the rules.

The passage of these tax cuts for small businesses across the country is very important. Small business, Mr. Speaker, is the engine that drives our economy. Small businesses employ over half of all private-sector workers and pay approximately 45 percent of all United States private payroll.

Over the last decade, small businesses have generated 60 to 80 percent of net new jobs each year. Hispanic small businesses now number over 2 million, Mr. Speaker, and their number has been growing at three times the average of non-Hispanic businesses.